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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/506,534	02/17/2000	Nobuyuki Kaneko	FUJA 17.073	7489

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EXAMINER

WONG, ALLEN C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2613

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/506,534

Applicant(s)

KANEKO ET AL.

Examiner

Allen Wong

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 February 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on February 19, 1999. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 11-041910 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims ^{1-5 and 8-22}~~1-22~~ are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bruno (5,710,591).

Regarding claim 20, Bruno discloses a video reception apparatus used in a video telecommunication system comprising a camera (fig.1, element 20), a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from the camera (fig.1, element 14), and a network (fig.1, element 26 is a network connecting all the workstations 12a-12c) connecting the camera and monitor comprising:

a character information receiver unit for receiving, through a switch control path on the network, character information from a video information describing unit which sends a switch command for the camera, simultaneously sends character information describing the video information of the camera in accordance with the switch command, and makes the monitor display the video information and the character information

(col.6, ln.1-18; Bruno discloses the switching signal, generated by element 26, for switching to the user to initiate the multimedia conference; also in col.6, ln.40-46, Bruno discloses that each conference participant user from each workstation 12a-12c can have textual or character information simultaneously associated with the video feed as one can observe in Bruno's figure 1, where at workstation 12a, there is a camera 20a for permitting the users from 12b and 12c to simultaneously see the user at 12a on their display screens 14b and 14c, respectively, and there is a keyboard 16a to input textual or character information so as to simultaneously inform the other users from 12b and 12c to see what is being typed in by user at 12a on their display screens 14b and 14c, respectively);

a decoding unit for converting the video information received through the video path on the network to analog video information (see fig.1 and note that the monitors 14a, 14b and 14c are connected to the same network, and that information transmitted can be observed at each workstation, thus, clearly the information is decoded otherwise the multimedia conference would not be possible); and

a display combining unit for combining the character information from the character information receiver unit with the video information from the decoding unit and outputting the result to the monitor (col.6, ln.40-46; Bruno discloses that each conference participant user from each workstation 12a-12c can have textual or character information simultaneously associated with the video feed as one can observe in Bruno's figure 1, where at workstation 12a, there is a camera 20a for permitting the users from 12b and 12c to simultaneously see the user at 12a on their display screens

14b and 14c, respectively, and there is a keyboard 16a to input textual or character information so as to simultaneously inform the other users from 12b and 12c to see what is being typed in by user at 12a on their display screens 14b and 14c, respectively; thus, Bruno discloses the display combining unit).

Note claims 1, 3-5, 8-9 and 11-19 have similar corresponding elements.

Regarding claim 2, Bruno discloses the switching command for the camera to the transmission apparatus (col.6, ln.1-18; Bruno discloses the switching signal, generated by element 26, for switching to the user to initiate the multimedia conference).

Regarding claims 10 and 21-22, Bruno discloses the character information alteration unit (fig.1, elements 16a-16c are keyboards that permit the alteration of character information).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruno (5,710,591) in view of Larson (5,541,640).

Regarding claims 6-7, Bruno does not disclose the use of MPEG video encoding standard for video compression and decompression. However, Larson teaches that MPEG encoding/decoding techniques can be use in the teleconferencing environment (col.16, ln.64 to col.17, ln.6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

Art Unit: 2613

skill in the art to take the teachings of Bruno and Larson as a whole for applying MPEG compression so as to accurately, efficiently encode image data while maintaining high image quality. Doing so would save costs.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen Wong whose telephone number is (703) 306-5978. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Thursdays from 8am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Allen Wong
Examiner
Art Unit 2613

AW
March 6, 2003


CHRIS KELLEY
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